THIS IS "BILK" NUMBER 13 / MARCH 1987 / PUBLISHED BY ULRICH MAGIN / STUHLBRUDERHOFSTRASSE 4 / 6704 MUTTERSTADT / WEST GERMANY / SUBS: DM 15 OR £3 OR \$ 6 FOR ALL THAT HAVE ALREADY SUBSCRIBED, I'LL HAVE TO RAISE THE PRICE FROM NEXT ISSUE ON. PLEASE SEND CHEQUES ONLY IF DRAWN IN GERMAN CURRENCY.—— THIS ISSUE OF BILK IS WITHOUT THE USUAL DRAWINGS AND LAY—OUT, BUT I'LL HAVE ENOUGH STUFF TO MAKE IT INTERESTING ANYWAY. AS USUAL, NEWS AND VIEWS FROM READERS ARE WELLCOME.

*** TO COMMUNICATE WITH MARS, CONVERSE WITH SPIRITS, TO REPORT THE BEHAVIOUR OF THE SEA MONSTER,...

..., ALL THESE ARE USUAL

PASTTIMES AND DRUGS, AND FEAUTURES OF THE PRESS: AND ALWAYS WILL BE, SOME OF THEM ESPECIALLY WHEN THERE IS DISTRESS OF NATIONS OR PERPLEXITY

T.S. ELIOT: THE DRY SALVAGES, V (1941) ***

BEHEMOTH

* Loch Ness:

-IN EARLY JUNE, BRIAN O'BRIAN SAW AN OBJECT LIKE A BIG SEAL AT STRONE POINT. (NESSLETTER 78)

- IN June Allen Greig, a teacher, saw and photographed the LNM - but it was a mock monster used by Greenpeace to demonstrate against acid rain. (Sonntag Aktuell, 29.6.86; Tauchen, Aug 1986, p.8)

- -.MR TONY HARMSWORTH, IN THE DAILY TELEGRAPH (20.9.86, p.5g), SAYS THERE WERE 6 REPORTS THIS SUMMER. HE SAYS THE BEST SIGHTING WAS MADE BY TWO FAMILIES ON MOTORCRUISERS OFF FORT AUGUSTUS LATE ONE EVENING, IN JULY. NESSIE DIVED BEFORE THEY COULD TAKE A PICTURE. (SEE ALSO NESSLETTER 77) IN JULY AS WELL, MR D MACFARLANE HAD SEVERAL INCONCLUSIVE SONAR RECORDINGS OF BIG TARGETS. MORE ABOUT THAT, AGAIN, IN NESSLETTER 77. ON AUGUST 18, MISS S. BOULTON SAW A TWO-HUMPED SHAPE (A BIG HUMP AND
- A SMALL HUMP) IN THE LOCH OFF DRUMNADROCHIT. (DAILY TELÈGRAPH, 19.8.86; RHEINPFALZ, 20.8.86; NEW SCIENTIST, 4.9.86, p.88; CHAMP CHANNELS, 3/86) ON AUGUST 27, HEATHER, RIP HEPPLE'S DAUGHTER, OBSERVED A "DOLPHIN-LIKE HEAD, WITH A DISTICT SNOUT" NEAR LOCHEND. (NESSLETTER 77)

- Early in October, Mrs Jean Skeldon saw a shaddow under water at Dores - and it may or not have anything to do with Nessie. (Nessletter 79 - In November a local man saw the animal. (Nessletter 79) - On November 12, Mr and Mrs Lamb observed a small hump, "Like a large

- UN NOVEMBER 12, MR AND MRS LAMB OBSERVED A SMALL HUMP, "LIKE A LARGE FLAT GREY ROCK" OPPOSITE URQUHART CASTLE. (NESSLETTER 79; CHAMP CHANNELS 3/86)

- In MID-November, N MacLeod saw a "Large dark shape" at Dores. (Champ Channels 4/86; Nessletter 79)

- Newsweek (Dec 15,1986, p.6) published an ADD FROM EPSON, FEAUTURING

A COMPUTER-CREATED PHOTO OF THE LNM.

- AND, AS IF THERE WERE NOT ENOUGH REPORTS ALREADY, SEALS WERE SEEN IN

THE RIVER NESS THAT YEAR. (NESSLETTER 78)

- Encouraged , probably, by the high number of reports last year, Shine intended to do the definite sonar search at the Loch - though this has already been done in the 1960s by a Cambridge expedition, and they found nothing - and there is certainly nothing in the 1986 reports that points to the existence of a real animal - to me, looks more like people, seeing wakes, birds and logs, are confirmed in their opinion that rumour is correct. However, fingers crossed for Adrian Shine - I'd like to see the beast on video. News about the project in: Dailt Telegraph, 20.9.86, p.5g and 13.10.86, p.5b; Rheinpfalz, 20.9.86; Vocable L'anglais d'aujourd'hui (Paris), 16.10.86, p.11ab and Nessletter 78) - In the Scotsman, the saga of Steuart Campbell's anti-Nessie crusade continued after last BILK. On 15.8., p.18f, a writer told us that the Loch is linked to Vesuvius and this is the reason why it never freezes over in winter. Did you know? On 13.8., p.10f, there is some discussion

ABOUT HOW HIGH THE LEVEL OF THE LOCH IS OVER THAT OF THE SEA; AND GLEN-DINNING S. MOWAT, FROM MONTROSE, INFORMS US THAT THE MONSTER EXISTS BE-CAUSE HE HAS SEEN IT. IN THE ISSUE OF AUG 9, p. 8 BC, CAMPBELL, O.D. GALLAGHER AND A LAFFERTY ALL INFORM US THAT THE MONSTER DOES NOT EXIST; AND ON AUG 6., P.8F, A.J.C. KERR SAYS IT DOES. THAT FINISHES ALL THAT LOCH NESS STUFF FOR THIS ISSUE.

* Spain: There have been many reports of monstrous serpents from Spain, some of them in lakes. Now, a 7 metres/23 ft-monster appeared in a reservoir at Tabuyo del Monte in the province of Leon. The animal was SEEN ON DRY LAND ON THE GROUNDS OF A FARM, ROLLED UP, LOOKING LIKE THE TYRE OF A TRACTOR. (SONNTAG AKTUELL, 10.8.1986, p.6A) I'LL TRY TO CONFIRM THIS IN THE SPANISH PAPERS, AND WILL PROBABLY BE ABLE TO TELL

YOU MORE IN NEXT BILK.

* Storsjø, Sweden: Swedish professor of Geology, Kent Larsson, claims to HAVE FOUND A SOLUTION FOR SKANDINAVIA'S BEST KNOWN MONSTER: IT IS ONLY GAS THAT ESCAPES FROM CRACKS IN THE LAKE BOTTOM. (FRAU UND FORTSCHRITT, 11/86). Larsson's idea is hardly new, und unlikely as well. More news about the Storsjø monster in Fortean Times 47,p.10. And for more strange

THINGS IN SWEDISH WATERS, SEE USO.

* INDIA: THIS IS A LAND DRAGON AGAIN. FOREST OFFICIALS OF THE SOUTH IN-DIAN STATE TAMIL NADU ENCOUNTERED THESE BEASTS IN A DENSE FOREST NEAR TIRUPATI IN THE INDIAN STATE ANDRA PRADESH. THE LIZZARD, THEY CLAIM, HAD A LENGTH OF 5.4 METRES/18 FT - WELL-OVER THE ACCEPTED MAXIMUM LENGTH of any Komodo dragon. A photographer of the zoology Department of the University of Tirupati came over and took pictures of the thing. (Rhein-PFALZ, 12.1.1987) THERE HAVE BEEN MANY CLAIMS RECENTLY THAT LIZZARDS. FAR EXEEDING THE KOMODO DRAGONS IN LENGTH EXIST IN NEW GUINEA AND AUS-TRALIA, BUT THIS IS THE FIRST INDIAN REPORT I KNOW OF. (BUT WAIT. THERE'S THE FAMOUS BURU IN INDIA'S NORTH!)

* Lake Hanas, China: A short note appeared in Pursuit, vol. 18., Nr. 4,

P.189.

* AUSTRALIA: TIME MAGAZINE (JULY 28, 1986, p. 15) HAS A REPORT ABOUT ABORIGINES IN AUSTRALIA, AND THEIR FIGHT FOR THEIR RIGHT TO PRESERVE THE OLD SACRED PLACES. IT SAYS THAT BENNETT BROOK, WHICH FLOWS THROUGH LOCKRIDGE, A SUBURB OF PERTH, IS "THE RESTING PLACE OF WAGYL, THE MYTHICAL RAINBOW SNAKE WITH MULTIPLE LEGS AND A HORSE'S MANE...ACCOR-DING TO ABORIGINAL BELIEF, WAGYL LIES ASLEEP, ITS MEMORY REVERED AND ITS PRESENCE DEEPLY RESPECTED, BENEATH BENNETT BROOK." HOW MANY REPORTS HAVE I READ, FROM CONTINENTAL EUROPE, OF LAND- AND WATER-DRAGONS LIKE A SNAKE, WITH A HORSE'S MANE AND MULTIPLE LEGS! IT NOW SEEMS TO ME THAT MANY SO-CALLES "EYEWITNESS REPORTS" MAY BE MYTHS AND FOLKLORE, UPDATED FOR NEWSPAPER USE.

* Some recent books , Henry Bauer's "The Enigma of Loch Ness" (which re-prints my list of Nessie sightings); Campbell'S "Evidence"; McEwan's "Mytery Animals of Britain and Ireland" (To be forgotten soon, another OF HIS CHEAP, QUICK RE-WRTINGS OF OTHER PEOPLE'S BOOKS - MAINLY , ALIEN Animals, by the Bords); and a new book by the Bords "Mysteries of Britain" (or some title like that: seen but not read); and Zarzynski's NEW ONE ON LOCH NESS AND LAKE CHAMPLAIN (NOT SEEN).

* DINOSAURS: THE DISCOVERY THAT ALLEGED HUMAN FOORPRINTS AT PALUXY RIVER, TEXAS, TOGETHER WITH DINO PRINTS, WERE IN FACT THOSE OF DINO-SAURS (WHO WAS SURPRISED?), HAS NOW ENTERED SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS, SEE Nature, vol.321,p.722 (19.6.86) and vol.323, p.390 (2.10.86). Nature, vol.308, pp.398-400 (1984) has an interesting article about creationist "DINOSAUROLOGY", WHICH GIVES THE EXACT NUMBER OF DINOS IN NOAH'S ARK, AND THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE BIBLICAL LEVIATHAN AS A FIRE-SPOUTING DINO. MORE ABOUT PALUXY IN A MAGNIFICENT CRACKPOT-ARTICLE IN PURSUIT Nr.71, p.98 (I HOPE IT WAS SATIRE...) AND INFO JOURNAL NR 50. THERE WERE ALSO SEVERAL NOTES IN SCIENCE FRONTIER. UPDATES ON REGUSTER'S EXPEDI-TION IN PURSUIT, VOL. 18. NR4 (1985), p. 174; AND ON OPERATION CONGO IN

FORTEAN TIMES 47, PP. 22-25. BOTH VERY INTERESTING. THE SEARCH FOR LIVING SPECIMENS IN AFRICA GOES ON ...

* "THE NYMPHS ARE DEPARTED", SAYS T S ELIOT. THERE HAVE BEEN NO_SIGH-TINGS RECENTLY, BUT A NUMBER OF ARTICLES: H ADAMSON, IN FORTEAN TIMES 47, p. 74, GIVES AN UPDATE ON THE INDIAN WATERBOY; BBC WILDLIFE, JAN 87, HAD AN ARTICLE ON STELLER'S SEA APE (TWO NEW SIGHTINGS) AND SEA SERPENTS - I HAVE NO COPY, COULD SOMEONE SEND ME A PHOTOCOPY?; THE UNKNOWN, FEB 87, HAD A REPORT ON MERMAIDS (1809, SCOTLAND; 1830, HEBRIDES; 1940, HEBRI-DES; 1977, SOUTH AFRICA; 1978, PHILLIPINES); AND THE NEW SCIENTIST , 25.12. 86, p. 13-15, ONE BY E. MORGAN ABOUT AQUATIC ORIGIN OF MANKIND. AND XTC, ON THEIR NEW ALBUM SKYLARKING, HAVE A SONG CALLED "MERMAID SMILED".

LEVIATHAN

- * GAMBIA: A REPORT THAT BY NOW SEEMS TO BE KNOWN BY EVERY CRYPTOZOOLO-GIST, ABOUT A DEAD SEASERPENT WASHED ASHORE IN JUNE 1983 AT A BEACH IN. GAMBIA, AND SEEN THERE BY MR BURNHAM, AN ENGLISH TOURIST, IS THE SUBJECT OF TWO ARTICLES IN THE UNKNOWN (SEPT AND OCT 1986). KARL SHUKER, A ZOOLOGIST, IDENTIFIES THIS ONE AS À PLIOSAUR - THOUGH THE CREATURE, TO ME, LOOKS JUST LIKE A BEAKED WHALE SHOULD LOOK LIKE. THERE ARE MANY SPECIES OF BEAKED WHALES, AND SOME ARE VERY LITTLE KNOWN.

 * ANTARCTICA: IN 1983, TWO SOVIET SCIENTISTS DESCRIBED A NEW SPECIES OF CETACEAN, ORCINUS GLACIALIS, RELATED TO THE "KILLER WHALE", BASED, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, ON SIGHTINGS. THE UNKNOWN, SEPT 86, P. 49, MENTIONES PRUDES BAY KILLER WHALE, I THINK THIS IS IT, BUT THE INFORMATION WAS FIRS
- PASSED TO ME BY MICHEL RAYNAL. * ITALY: BETWEEN PESARO AND RIMINI, TOURISTS AND FISHERMEN KEEP ON SEEING A MONSTROUS WHITE SHARK, 33 FT /10 M LONG. NOW THE GREATEST LENGTH OF SUCH A CREATURE IS ABOUT 20ft, AND SO THERE IS A REWARD OF LIRE 1,000,000 FOR THE CAPTURE. ONE OF THE WITNESSES, THE CAPTAIN OF A TRAWLER MARCO BENELLI, SAYS THAT HE'LL NEVER SWIM IN THE SEA AGAIN. (RHEIN-PFALZ, 29.9.86 - | TRY TO GET THE ITALIAN ORIGINAL). I HAVE ALSO REPORTS FROM 1973 AND 1976 ABOUT SIMILAR MONSTROUS SHARKS OFF ITALY - I THINK THEY MAY BE ONLY BASKING SHARKS.

KRAKEN

- * CALIFORNIA: A 8-FT GIANT SQUID WAS NETTEC ABOUT 20 MILES OFF HALF MOON BAY IN JANUARY 1986. (PURSUIT, VOL.19, Nr.1, p.42)
 * BAHAMAS: A REPORT IN THE NEW SCIENTIST, MAY 8,1986, p.44, MENTIONS THE LUSCA, "ANOTHER MYTHICAKL MONSTER, HALF-SHARK, HALF-OCTOPUS". THE LUSCA IS FAMOUS IN CRYPTOZOOLOGY, BUT I HAVE ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT ITS ONLY AN IMAGE USED TO DESCRIBE THE DANGEROUS WHIRLPOOLS OF THE AREA. THIS IS ALSO THE EXPLANATION GIVEN IN THE NEW SCIENTIST. THE GIANT OCTOPUS of the Bermudas is mentioned in Science Frontiers 47.
- * SOME YEARS AGO, ACCORDING TO AN INFORMANT OF JEAN-JACQUES BARLOY, A GIANT OCTOPUS WAS OBSERVED UNDERWATER OFF CANNES. GIANT OCTOPUSSES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN HAVE BEEN MENTIONED SEVERAL TIMES IN BILK, AND I WROTE AN ARTICLE ABOUT THEM FOR PURSUIT.
- * This should have been under Leviathan, but it has a bit of everything: BILD, THE GERMAN TABLOID, 23.2.1987, REPORTS THAT AMERICAN SCIENTISTS FOUND STRANGE ANIMALS IN A DEPTHS OF 1000 METRES -"UNIDENTIFIED FISH WITH BLUE EYES AND STRANGE FRONT LIMBS." THIS SEEMS TO REFER TO THE DISCOVERY OF YET ANOTHER "LOST WORLD" AT MID-OCEAN RIDGES.

*Bermuda: From an unidentified magazine ("Solar Space Letter"?) an articl from an unidentified American tabloid ("National Enquierer"?) about a UNIDENTIFIED SUBMARINE THAT TURNED INTO A SAUCER AND SAVED SOME PEOPLE FROM DROWNING IN THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE, SOMEWHEN AT AN UNIDENTIFIED TIME, PROBABLY IN SUMMER 1986. (THANX TO GEP FOR CLIPPING)

- * Sweden: According to Newspaper Reports, foreign subs enetered Swed&ish territorial waters for at least a dozen times this year. In late July, a Swedish minesweeper reported one just 200 yards away, off Stockholm. The ship was off-duty, but one on board managed to get a film of the sub. The Russians seem to have the strange ability to avoid the military and surface in front of tourist, just as the LNM avoids researchers but frightens tourists. (Guardian, 7.10.86, p.6h; Frankfurter Rundschau, ?.10.86). I wanted to reprint two Swedish mystery subs from 1934 and 36, but have no space in this issue.
- * "IRELAND: "TORPEDO FOUND ON CLARE BEACH-BOMB DISPOSAL EXPERTS FROM SARSFIELD BARRACKS IN LIMERICK WERE LAST NIGHT EXAMINING AN OBJECT THOUGHT TO BE A TORPEDO FOUND ON A CLARE BEACH YESTERDAY MORNING. A LOCAL MAN, MR MARTIN FENNELLY, OF KILBAHA, KILRUSH, FOUND THE OBJECT NEAR HIS HOME ON THE BEACH AT 10.20 A.M. AND REPORTED IT TO THE LOCAL GARDA STATION, CARRIGAHOLT. THE TORPEDO IS 10 FOOT LONG, 3 FOOT IN DIAMETER, AND HAS FOUR FINS ON ITS CYLINDRICAL END. THE NOSE WAS TAPERED AND THE OBJECT WAS PAINTED GREY." (IRISH TIMES, 3.1.87, p.3H). MORE IN THE IRISH TIMES, 8.1., 1H, AND 9.1., AND IN THE IRISH PRESS, 8.1., 4H. IT WAS OF AMERICAN ORIGION.
- * IRELAND: ON FEBRUARY 18, THE NET OF THE TRAWLER SUMMER MORN BECAME ENTAGLED WITH AN UNIDENTIFIED SUB OFF PORTAVOGIE, CO, DOWN. AFTER SEVERAL HOURS OF STRUGGLE THE CREW LOST THE NET. THE SUB WAS AMERICAN. (IRISH PRESS, 19.2.87, p.11; IRISH TIMES, 19.2.; HOT PRESS, DUBLIN, 26.3.1987, p.7.

WHALES

1986: IN APRIL, A RARE SABER-TOOTHED STRANDED IN OREGON (PURSUIT 73, p. 44)
A SCHOOL OF WHALES STRANDED AT PERTH, AUSTRALIA, IN JULY (FRANKFURTER
RUNDSCHAU, 1.8.86); A WHALE ATTACKED A SURFER, OFF THE USA, IN AUG (SÜDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG, 16.8.86); ON SEPT 13, A 23 M BLUE WHALE, 100 TONS, WAS
RAMMED BY A SHIP OFF STH. CALIFORNIA (RHAINPFAÖZ, 15.9.86); ON SEPT 17, A

0.5-TON WHALE STRANDED AT DUNURE, SCOTLAND (D. TELEGRAPF, 20.9.86, 2c); 148
PILOT WHALES ASHORE AT THE SW COAST OF ICELAND, ON OCT 25 (TIMES, 30.10.86)
A 10 M "EDEN-WHALE" (?) STRANDED AT CAMERON/LOUISIANA, 20 TONS (RHEINPFALZ, 30.10.86); ON OCT 30, A 2-TON "BLUE-NOSED WHALE" (?) WAS WASHED ASHC
IN RED WHARF BAY, WALES, AND WAS TOWED BACK TO SEA BY THE RSPCA (D. TELEGRAPH, 31.10.86, 2F); IN NOV, A YOUNG 30FT, 6-TON "NORTH SEA WHALE" (?) STANDED IN THE MOUTH OF THE MEUSE/MAAS (MANNHEIMER MORGEN, 12.11.86, 13cD); ON
DEC 3, 57 PILOT WHALES STRANDED AT EASTHAM, CAPE COD (THE TIMES, 5.12.86,
P.11; SONNTAG AKTUELL, 21.12.86); ON DEC 20, AGAIN AT EASTHAM, 34 STRANDED
PILOT WHALES (SONNTAG AKTUELL, 21.12.86); ON DEC 22, 13 (OR 14) PILOT WHAL
STRANDED AT SANDAY, ORKNEYS (IRISH TIMES, 24.12.86, 6H; D. TELEGRAPH, 23.12.
86,1c); FINALLY, JAN 87, A 35FT SPERM WHALE STRANDED AT GELA, SICILY
(RHEINPFALZ, 19.1.87) ... WHAT WAS HAPPENING LAST YEAR? I'VE NEVER BEFORE
HAD SO MANY NOTES ON WHALE STRANDINGS. NOTE THE EVENTS AT THE END OF OCT!

* Maybe it's all the publicity about "Crocodile Dundee", or our leathered Lizzards are stricking back: A crocodile killed a bather in an Australian River, on Sppt 9,86 (Irish Times, 10.9.86,5c); A 20-ft croc did the same with Kerry McLoughlin, 40, in March 87, in the East Alligator River (D. Telegraph, 19.3.87, 3h; Rheinpfalz, 19.3.87)

* What about sharks? Summer 86, Sth, Africa, Patrick Gee in Jaws of Shark (Tauchen, Aug 86, p.7); 10-ft shark kills surfer at Waratah Bay, Sth. Australia, on Sept 8. (Irish Times, 10.9.86, 5c); another attack, lost my note (Frankfurther Rundschau, 9.8.86).

NESSLETTER: R R HEPPLE, HUNTSHIELDFORD, ST JOHNS CHAPEL, BISHOP AUCKLAND, CO DURHAM, DL13 1RQ, UK; CHAMP CHANNELS, PO BOX 2134, WILTON, NY 12866, USA; FORTEAN TIMES, 96 MANSFIELF RD, LONDON NW3 2HX, UK. GOOD CRYPTOZOOLOGICAL BOOKS FROM: EXCALIBUR BOOKS, 15 ROCKPORT RD, CRAIGAVAD, CO DOWN, BT18 ODD NORTHERN IRELAND.

THIS IS THE END OF BILK 13/14 (DOUBLE ISSUE), NEXT BILK IN MAY.